

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

Review of Order No. 82-060 of the )  
Central Valley Regional Water )  
Quality Control Board Regarding )  
FRUITVALE WATER DISPOSAL COMPANY. )

Order No. WQ 82-13

BY THE BOARD:

On May 28, 1982, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted waste discharge requirements, Order No. 82-060, for the Fruitvale Water Disposal Company. This discharge permit regulates the discharge via underground injection of wastewater containing approximately equal portions of oil field production wastewater and refinery wastewater. Order No. 82-060 permits the discharge of up to 0.63 million gallons per day (mgd) of wastewater through four injection wells. The wastewater will be injected at between 3,500 and 3,910 feet into water bearing strata. The wastewater is estimated to have a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of 5,700 mg/l. The wastewater will be treated prior to discharge by sedimentation, flotation, aeration, and filtration to remove suspended matter, settleable solids and volatiles. The permit contains no limitations on the concentration of individual constituents of the wastewater.

Because of our concerns with this discharge, we are exercising the authority contained in Water Code Section 13320 to review the matter on our own motion.

## ISSUES AND FINDINGS

1. Issue: Is the discharge of this TDS wastewater (5,700 mg/l) appropriate in this case?

Finding: The Regional Board's records indicate that the quality of the groundwater in one of the zones into which the wastewater would be injected is of better quality than the injectate. In this case, however, the Regional Board determined that injection of the wastewater at a depth of 3,500 feet was a better alternative than the existing surface disposal methods. Surface disposal of these wastes has been contaminating shallow aquifers currently being used for water supply. The Regional Board considered cessation of this surface discharge more important than the potential contamination of the deep groundwater.

Our concern is whether the wastewater is significantly higher in TDS than the groundwater. While the Regional Board record indicates that the groundwater is as low as 2,600 mg/l in TDS, the discharger has, since the Regional Board action, presented information concluding that the receiving water is of about the same TDS as that estimated for the injectate. If borne out, this conclusion would eliminate a substantial question about the project. However, staff has not had time to fully corroborate this new information. Because we feel such corroboration is necessary and recognizing the discharger's time problems in completing his project, we will direct the Regional Board to review in cooperation with State Board staff discharger's data at its next available Board meeting.

2. Issue: Should the discharge permit contain limitations on the concentration levels of the individual constituents of the wastewater?

Finding: The discharger has prepared a flow-weighted average for constituents of the wastewater. The Department of Health Services has reviewed the weighted average and has determined that the wastewater is non-hazardous. Notwithstanding such determination, we are concerned with the high levels of some of the constituents, particularly phenols. The discharger has indicated that when high concentrations occur, they will be separated from the waste to be injected and disposed of by alternative means. We feel that the discharge permit should be modified to address this issue. Specifically, the Regional Board should establish maximum constituent level concentrations on phenols, TDS and any other constituents the Regional Board considers necessary. If such levels are exceeded, alternate disposal or treatment should be required. Modification of the monitoring program as necessary to verify compliance with the requirements will also be required. The Regional Board should make such modifications to the permit and its monitoring program at its next available Board meeting.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. The Regional Board, in cooperation with State Board staff, should attempt to corroborate the discharger's submittals which indicate that there will be no significant degradation of the receiving water by the injectate insofar as

TDS is concerned. If the submittals are verified, no further action will be necessary with respect to the issue of TDS.

2. The Regional Board should modify Order No. 82-060 to: (a) establish maximum constituent concentration limitations for the discharge by injection and (b) modify the monitoring requirements accordingly.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Regional Board reconsider Order No. 82-060 in a manner consistent with this Order at its next available Board meeting.

DATED: September 16, 1982

/s/ Carole A. Onorato  
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Carole A. Onorato, Chairwoman

/s/ L. L. Mitchell  
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L. L. Mitchell, Vice-Chairman

/s/ Jill D. Golis  
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Jill D. Golis, Member

/s/ F. K. Aljibury  
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F. K. Aljibury, Member

/s/ Warren D. Noteware  
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Warren D. Noteware, Member